Undergraduate Alumni Records 1748-1920: Preliminary Finding Aid

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The College of New Jersey was initially chartered in 1746. The first classes were held in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in the parsonage of the president, the Reverend Jonathan Dickinson. Upon his death, the College moved to Newark, New Jersey, and was headed by the Reverend Aaron Burr, Sr. Since 1756, the College has been located in Princeton, New Jersey. For the first fifty years, nearly all College operations took place within Nassau Hall. Fires, fundraising difficulties, low student enrollment, and the Civil War challenged the vitality of the College in the early and middle nineteenth century, but the College grew vigorously under the leadership of President James McCosh, and it was renamed Princeton University in 1896. The Graduate School was established in 1900, although a limited graduate program had existed since the 1870s. Princeton enthusiastically supported the country (living up to its informal motto, "Princeton in the Nation’s Service") during the First and Second World Wars, offering the expertise of faculty and campus space for training, as well as facilitating the early graduation of students so they could enlist. The post-World War II years brought dramatic changes to Princeton. The size and strength of the University’s facilities and academic programs—especially for the applied sciences and public policy—were increased dramatically. Under President Robert Goheen, Princeton began to admit minority students in greater numbers in the 1960s and admitted women undergraduates in 1969. Today, Princeton is widely regarded as one of the top universities in the world.

Consists of personal files of former undergraduate students of Princeton University. Information in each file varies greatly but can include the names of relatives, notable achievements and news items, address updates, and obituaries.

Access
The collection is open for research use.

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Other Finding Aid(s)
Series 1 is available at Alumni Files, 1748-1920: Series 1.
Series 2 is available at Alumni Files, 1748-1920: Series 2.
Series 3 is available at Alumni Files, 1748-1920: Series 3.
Series 4 is available at Alumni Files, 1748-1920: Series 4.
A searchable index of undergraduate alumni files is also available: Undergraduate Alumni Database, 1748-1920.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); (Collection Title), Box and Folder Number; Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information
Processing information for this collection is not currently available. Finding aid updated by Alexis Antracoli in March 2019.

Encoding

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

- Princeton University. -- Alumni and alumnae.
- Princeton University. Students.
- College students -- New Jersey -- Princeton.
- Princeton University